



State of Connecticut  
SENATE

May 4, 2009

The Honorable M. Jodi Rell  
Governor  
State of Connecticut  
State Capitol, Room 202  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Rell:

As you know, the Office of Fiscal Analysis has updated its projected revenue numbers and it appears that the size of the deficit remains essentially unchanged. With budget negotiations underway, we look forward to working with you to reach agreement on a biennial budget in the coming weeks. The Appropriations and Finance Committees completed their work three weeks early this year specifically so that we would have the extra time needed to complete the negotiation process in this difficult year.

For the process to best move forward, it is incumbent upon you to make public your counter-proposal to the balanced budget approved by the Appropriations and Finance Committees. We understand that you do not agree with all aspects of the committees' budget; that makes it even more important that you share with the legislature and the public your own plan to address the deficit. At a recent press event, you acknowledged that your staff has identified additional budget cuts necessary to close the Office of Policy and Management's most recent projected revenue shortfall. Keeping your cuts secret deprives the public the opportunity to fully review and evaluate your plan.

The Appropriations and Finance Committees' budget is the only proposal on the table that addresses the projected revenue shortfall for the biennium of \$8.7 billion, in accordance with the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) numbers. Your budget, however, is not only \$2.7 billion below OFA's number, but it is also almost \$2 billion below your own projected revenue shortfall of \$7.95 billion. These dramatic shortfalls must be addressed.

We ask you to join with us to provide leadership in this difficult economic time. It is important that your budget proposals are transparent and accessible in the same manner as the committees' budget.

Working together, we have the time and the ability to complete the biennial budget on time in the regular legislative session. We remain optimistic that you will share with us – and with the people of Connecticut – your plan for dealing with the very significant budget issues facing our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Donald E. Williams, Jr." in a cursive style.

Donald E. Williams, Jr.  
Senate President Pro Tempore

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Martin M. Looney" in a cursive style.

Martin M. Looney  
Senate Majority Leader